

### **What is Reentry?**

Reentry is a coordinated effort by the state, counties, and programming providers to identify and target the challenges and opportunities inmates face as prospective parolees return to the community of their last legal residence. Upon incarceration, a risk and needs assessment determines the rehabilitative programming for an inmate to ensure that their return to the community is safe and successful. Unlike the current practice of release, reentry is a more sustained process that includes a collaborative partnership between the state and the community in transitioning an inmate from custody back into the community.

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### **What are reentry facilities and where are they located?**

A reentry facility in California is a secure correctional and rehabilitative programming site that will provide intensive treatment deemed necessary pursuant to each unique inmate's risk and needs assessment. The facilities' design must take into account the need to locate services within the facility itself that will address the needs of the soon-to-be-released inmate. Elements such as classrooms, drug treatment areas, job training space, and areas that facilitate family reunification and housing solutions must be considered and included as part of the core design principles. Ideally, these facilities should be close to service providers, employers, families and community groups that will assist an inmate to successfully reenter the community.

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### **Does an inmate have to meet certain criteria to qualify for the reentry facility? What are these criteria? What types of offenders will be allowed / disallowed? (e.g. level of substance abuse, medical problems, mental health, age, violent offenders?)**

Inmates must both volunteer to participate and demonstrate a willingness to change or succeed on parole. Based upon results of risk and needs assessments and evaluations conducted during an inmate's incarceration, the offender will receive a prescription of program services. Determining which inmates receive what level of rehabilitative programming will be based upon the risk an offender may pose to the community, as well as determining what the inmate's treatment needs are.

Prospective parolees at secure reentry program facilities will start as inmates completing the last 6 to 12 months of their sentence. Some residents of the facility may be parole violators, returned to custody.

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### **How much weight will be given to those counties providing a reentry facility for state when jail constructions funds are being awarded?**

While AB 900 does not define or weight preference, the Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) Executive Steering Committee will determine how preference is to be applied as a component of the Request For Proposals (RFP). (*hotlink to the CSA RFP Process*)

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### **What are some of the benefits of having a reentry facility in my community?**

There are a number of benefits. A primary benefit of a secure reentry program facility is greater communication and delivery of services and programs between government entities and community-based organizations and volunteers.

Presently, these relationships are not consistently available under current pre-parole release practices between the CDCR and a county receiving a parolee returning on a supervised parole. Secure reentry program facilities organize and coordinate the correctional and rehabilitative tools and techniques

available to state and local law enforcement to monitor and manage parolee populations to improve public safety.

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**How will a reentry facility be designed, sited, and operated in such a way that is consistent with other businesses in my community?**

The design of any public facility has many practical considerations that must be weighed during the planning process. The design of a reentry facility is no different and must consider many of the same criteria that would be applied when building any public or commercial structure. Where is it most feasible to build in relation to the facility's purpose? How can it be built to include all of the necessary features while still remaining cost efficient? What designs should be considered so that it reflects its surroundings in an appropriate manner? What are the necessary characteristics of the facility that will make it successful? To find out, the state must collaborate with local governments and other partners to identify those needs. Those answers will help to shape what a reentry facility looks like and how it functions.

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**How will the local community be involved in deciding whether to have a facility? What will be done to promote the facility to the local community?**

CDCR will work with the counties on this effort. Part of this process will be to conduct regional workshops and town hall meetings to educate the community about the benefits of having a reentry facility within their community. Local market radio and media will also be used to help introduce the concept of reentry to the general public.

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**Who selects the inmates for the reentry facility, i.e. the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation? Does the county have input into which inmates are selected?**

The county will assist the state in deciding which type of inmate will be placed in the facilities based on local parolee population demographics and available treatment resources. The reentry facilities will house inmates/parole violators who are most at risk to re-offend when placed in the community.

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Will drug and alcohol rehabilitation, and mental health services be provided in these facilities? Who pays for such services?

Yes, there will be a full array of programming including substance abuse, mental health, education, vocation, and character based/cognitive education. The state will pay for the services that are delivered to state offenders within each facility.

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**What type of vocational classes does the reentry facility offer? How can potential employers help?**

Local employers will be invited to identify vocational training to develop the skills and abilities needed for the offenders to work in jobs provided by employers in the immediate area. CDCR will be in regular contact with resources statewide to identify, register, and facilitate the deployment of all services that would benefit and support local employers interested in the potential labor force being developed in rehabilitative reentry facilities. Providers can begin training parolees while they are incarcerated in the reentry facilities. Additionally, local employers may be able to lease and utilize space where appropriate in secure reentry program facilities. It may be possible for employers to employ inmates to work inside the facility, subject to safety, security and rehabilitative expectations.

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**What will be the function of State Parole Agents in reentry?**

The reentry facilities will work closely with the local parole units. Parole Agents will most likely have their initial contacts with the soon-to-parole offenders in the reentry facilities. Also, the parolees who are on revoked status will continue having contact with their Parole Agents.

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**How much money is available to counties for jail construction under AB 900?**

AB 900 provides a total of \$1.2 billion in jail construction funding -- \$750 million in Phase I and \$470 million in Phase II.

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**How does AB 900 differ from previous jail construction funding allocations and processes?**

There are two fundamental differences with AB 900 that have not previously been experienced with state-administered jail construction funding -- 1) lease-revenue bond financing, and 2) a direct linkage to reentry facility construction for the state prison system. Note: reentry facility construction funding is not part of the \$1.2 billion allotted for jail construction.

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**How will the components/rules be established for the jail construction proposals process?**

A Jail Construction Executive Steering Committee will convene to determine various aspects of the Request for Proposals (RFP), including rating criteria and funding parameters. The recommendations of the committee will be brought to the Corrections Standards Authority Board for their review and approval before a final RFP is disseminated.

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**Is there an estimate of when the jail construction RFP will be issued and when proposals will be due?**

Not at this time. Due to the significant complexities inherent with AB 900, time is needed to establish the appropriate framework before all of the elements of an RFP can be determined. The new reentry facility program within CDCR is currently developing details related to county agreements for siting of reentry facilities (a preference for jail construction funding awards cited in AB 900). Further, funding details/processes related to the lease-revenue bond funds to be administered through the State Public Works Board are evolving as well. Coupled with these factors is the Jail Construction Executive Steering Committee's process to further define other aspects of the RFP. Once these significant pieces are solidified, an RFP will be issued.

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**How will the construction of reentry facilities be funded?**

The secure reentry program facilities authorized by AB 900 will be funded by tax-exempt lease-revenue bonds issued by the State Public Works Board (PWB). In funding a project through lease-revenue bonds, the CDCR typically leases a state-owned site to the PWB and constructs the project as PWB's agent. The completed facility, together with the site, is leased back to the CDCR for a rental amount consistent with the fair rental value of the reentry facility and not less than the bond debt and associated administrative expenses. A lease term of 25 years is typical.

Additional information concerning lease-revenue bond funding can be found in the State Administrative Manual at <http://sam.dgs.ca.gov/>.

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**Who should I contact to get more information on reentry facilities?**

You can contact the Office of Reentry Facilities within CDCR via phone at (916) 255-3896 or fax at (916) 255-3051.

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**Will the County have the discretion to refuse state prisoner admissions to the reentry facility due to prison overcrowded conditions and no available bed space?**

Reentry facilities will have an identified maximum capacity developed in collaboration with counties. CDCR will not exceed this maximum capacity at any time.

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**Are any steps being considered for offenders who are returning to the county as required but have no connections or potential support within that county and actually may be better served by returning to their actual county of historical residence?**

Under current law, offenders are paroled to their county of last legal residence – except under very strict conditions, including the presence of a victim of a violent crime requesting the parolee be relocated. Use of reentry facilities will not change the criteria for how offenders are returned to their county of last legal residence.

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**Can the programming within a reentry facility recognize several security levels, for example, to allow for intensive programs on one wing and less intensive work release in another wing?**

Yes, the reentry facilities will be designed to be safe and secure for all offender populations with appropriate programming for the inmate population. Because these are secure facilities, they will not include work release.

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**There are a few counties currently designing jail facilities which could incorporate reentry facilities into their designs. Is there a way to help these counties move along and incorporate reentry without jeopardizing grant funding by going too far with their current projects?**

The state is in the process of expediting the competitive process for awarding jail bond funding with the release of the RFP available in November of 2007. However, it is recommended that in an effort to avoid unintentional delays relative to either jails or reentry facilities, any county/city pursuing an integrated building or complex for the jail/reentry facility should contact Bob Takeshta, Deputy Director Corrections Standards Authority, at (916) 322-8346, and/or Deborah Hysen, Chief Deputy Secretary Facility Planning, at (916) 323-6001.

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**Why isn't California utilizing proven techniques of employing a "Drug Court" model to oversee the offender's reentry into the community? Programming in the facility followed by day releases for work/school ultimately stepped-down to electronic monitoring and then full release?**

The CDCR is currently exploring use of a drug court pilot for the parolee population.

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**Who determines what types of inmates are sent to each reentry facility?**

The final determination of what types of inmates will be housed in the reentry facilities will be made by CDCR staff. Counties will be part of the program planning process and will work with CDCR on what types of inmates will be acceptable for housing within that facility based on risk and needs assessments conducted on inmates during incarceration.

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### **What type of staffing does the Department propose for the Secure Reentry Facilities?**

There will be a variety of job classifications employed at each reentry facility in order to support the delivery of intensive programs to the offenders housed in the facilities. The facilities will employ custody staff, staff with specialties in education, in health care, in substance abuse counseling, in the arts, in recreation, and other essential program areas. CDCR may contract with local government to provide certain programs or services and contract staff may be employed to deliver specialty programs or services.

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### **For counties that have signed "Agreements to Cooperate", what treatment modalities do their mental health/AODS programming staff envision will be successful and represent best practices, given that the reentry facilities are going to be secure and will not have the ability to leave the facility for treatment/work?**

The types of programs and services to be provided in each reentry facility will be carefully planned in collaboration with local community program providers, including Alcohol and Drug Programs, Mental Health Services, Housing Agency, County Office of Education, and other local agency providers. The principle of best practices and promising programs will be part of the program planning. More importantly, the principle of evidence-based programs and practices will be essential for deciding what program elements and methods will be appropriate to address offender risks to re-offend and needs for successful parole.

Inmates requiring specialized treatment not available in the reentry facility will be transported to external service providers and treatment facilities on an as needed basis.

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### **If there are significant medical or psychiatric costs incurred from a State prisoner in the reentry facility, who will bear the costs?**

The State of California.

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### **There seems to be a link between the siting of reentry facilities and local jail expansion funding. Has CDCR eliminated all counties that don't build reentry facilities on County property?**

AB 900 has established a nexus between siting a reentry facility and receiving preference for local jail construction lease revenue bonds.

CDCR has not eliminated any city or county that is interested in partnering with the State on this important endeavor. The State will be exploring the acquisition of both improved and unimproved land held by cities, counties, and under private ownership in addition to state-owned lands and buildings. Its analysis will include among other considerations the feasibility and costs associated with the purchase, renovation/construction and operation of each facility in order to provide the best value to the state, local communities and all other interested stakeholders.

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### **How do these re-entry facilities differ from traditional halfway houses for parolees?**

The reentry facilities will be locked, secure facilities and will occupy offenders currently in custody. The offenders housed in these facilities will not be allowed outside the perimeter without custody supervision. The custody and security services within the reentry facilities will be provided by state Correctional Officers, unless the state contracts with local government to operate the facility with staff hired by the Sheriff's Department. The reentry facilities will house up to 500 inmates. In the reentry facilities, all programming will be provided within the secure perimeter by treatment providers,

teachers, vocational instructors, employers and others. In halfway houses, the parolees generally leave the residence to obtain programs and services, where available.

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**Will there be Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Counselors on the staff? Will the AOD counselors be state employees or will they be contracted?**

In most cases, substance abuse counseling staff will be through a contract for specialty services as currently used in other state prisons and parole offices.

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**Parole has in the past provided services or facilitated services for inmates such as job training, drug treatment, mental health and social services - what role will parole play, where do parole officers fall into this plan/ reentry process?**

Parole Agents will continue to provide the transitional services and programs that they have always provided. With the introduction of reentry facilities, parole agents will be able to enhance the supervision to include accountability and compliance of parolees, as they will be able to meet with the parolees prior to release into the community. Agents will become familiar with the programs that the parolee has been involved in, the continued programming needs of the parolee, and areas to focus any special parole conditions to enhance supervision and provide for a continuity of care as needed. The inmate will also be able to meet their parole agent and learn his or her expectations prior to release.

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**Are small counties going to equally benefit from AB900 in relation to large counties?**

The Corrections Standards Authority has established a process that plans to fairly distribute the funds available through AB 900 between large, medium, and small capacity. They will be considering such factors as the size of the county (large, medium and small), need (operating under court capacity or self imposed capacity), early releases due to crowding, etc.

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